

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, as amended.

By this Amendment, the title has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation. Additionally, and without acceding to the outstanding rejections, independent Claim 11 has been amended to recite that each of the plural circuit blocks has plural latches and an individual signal response period between a timing when a first latch of the circuit block fetches a signal and a timing when a second block outputs a signal fetched by a first latch of the next circuit block. The basis for the Examiner's query regarding the variable *n* in Claim 11 is not understood. Clearly, *n* is the same for each occurrence.

Regarding the cited patent to Kim, Applicants would initially note that T1, which is referenced in the Office Action, is not a trigger to fetch data into the third latch. Moreover, in contrast to amended Claim 11, Kim only discloses one circuit block, whereas Claim 11 recites plural circuit blocks each including plural latches.

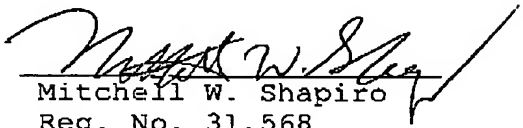
In that the remaining references fail to teach or suggest the above enumerated features, Claim 11, and the claims that depend therefrom, are patentably distinguishable from the art of record.

Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (XA-9665A) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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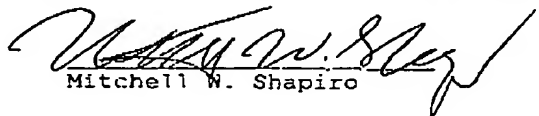
February 6, 2006

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Feb 6, 2006
Date


Mitchell W. Shapiro